

REMARKS

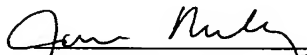
35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baldoni et al. (US 6,360,802) taken in view of at least one of Caretta (US 3,598,673), Byerley (US 6,457,505) and Felten et al (US 4,239,579). Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Caretta (US 3,598,673) or Landsness (US 4,780,170) or Olbert et al. (US 3,853,653 – for claim 5 only) taken in view of at least one of Baldoni et al. (US 6,360,802) and Kneip (US 4,976,804) and further in view of at least one of Caretta (US 3,598,673 – only for the rejections not based on Caretta), Byerley (US 6,457,505) and Felten et al. (US 4,239,579). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 5 has been amended to include a central segment support mechanism having a plurality of radially expandable segments having cam followers in engagement with cam surfaces of a cone mechanism, wherein the cone mechanism is actuatable independent of said central screw. None of the cited references alone or in combination teach or suggest this structural limitation.

In light of this amendment, all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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